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ly eighteen months old he counted eighteen rings of growth. In 1871 Dr. Child planted some seeds of *Acer rubrum*. In transplanting in 1873 the trees were set too close and had to be thinned. In each of four of these trees when they were cut down in 1882 he counted from 35 to 40 separate rings. In three of them twelve rings were plainer than the rest, while in the fourth, nine were large and the remainder not distinguishable from each other. All of these saplings were of known age. Certainly if 35 or 40 rings may be made in twelve years, the estimates of age based on the number of growth rings cannot be very accurate. The rings varied in thickness from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 28 mm.

DR. CHAS. MOHR has been looking up the rare *Rhus cotinoides*, Nutt., for the Tenth Census. It has been lost to the botanical world for forty years and was poorly understood. After considerable search the tree was found where Prof. Buckley had found it in 1841. Its habitat seems to be upon the southern declivities of mountains along the valley of the Tennessee in Alabama and probably extending northward into the State of Tennessee. Dr. Mohr reports it as yielding a yellow dye-stuff and formerly much used for that purpose in the neighboring settlements. On account of the great beauty of its wood the tree is called by the negroes Shittim-wood, they believing that it is the very wood so named in the Bible. "The wood permits of the finest finish; the fineness of its grain, beauty of color and its hardness fit it well for inlaid work, veneering, and the manufacture of smaller articles of all kinds of fancy woodwork." An interesting account of this re-discovery is given in Proc. Philad. Acad., p. 217, 1882.

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

*Descriptions of New Species of Fungi, collected in the vicinity of Cincinnati.* By THOMAS G. LEA, and described by REV. M. J. BERKELEY. Republished from "A Catalogue of the Plants of Cincinnati, by Thomas G. Lea."—This important pamphlet has just been published by the Cincinnati Society of Natural History. Thos. G. Lea's "Catalogue of Plants" was published in 1849, the collections having been made during the years 1834-44, but it has become so exceedingly rare as to be virtually inaccessible to students. This was to be regretted principally on account of its containing a list of Fungi with notes and descriptions of the new species by the eminent English mycologist, Rev. M. J. Berkeley. This loss has now been generously made good by the Society referred to, and this neat pamphlet of 21 pages is hailed with delight by more than the local mycologists. The richness of Mr. Lea's collections may be inferred from the fact that out of a list of 80 species 51 are new, and one of them was made the type of a new genus, *Psilopezia* by name. The Cincinnati Society of Natural History has quite an enterprising set of members, who are well cultivating many departments, not even neglecting, as is seen, this much neglected branch of Systematic Botany, and they promise to publish during this present year a synopsis of Hymenomycetes of the Miami Valley, by Prof. A. P. Morgan.